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COUNTRY Germany (Soviet Zone)

REPORT NO.                     

TOPIC Infant Bismarckhafen Airfield

*file 30*

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EVALUATION                      PLACE OBTAINED                     

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DATE OF CONTENT 20 May to 2 June 1951

DATE OBTAINED                      DATE PREPARED 16 July 1951

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REFERENCES                     

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE) 1 sketch on ditto

REMARKS                     

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SOURCE                     

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1.                     

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                     Only the southern boundary of the field was seen. The northeastern corner of the field was being graded. There was no fence around the field, but two old gates were seen. A temporary building in which an office was housed was next to one of the gates. The buildings in the area of the field were destroyed. Their ruins were being stripped and the bricks were used for grading. Several houses, former officers' billets, in the southeastern section of the field, were occupied by civilians.

2. No indications of surveying or the construction of a runway were seen on the old landing field around which a concrete taxiway extended. Three temporary buildings, used as recreation rooms by the construction laborers, were located along the taxiway. Two additional temporary buildings, located in the southeastern section of the old landing field, served as a forge shop and for storage purposes by the construction firm.

3. No Soviets, VP-men or other guards were seen at the field. Bauunion Firm, Sophienstrasse, Jena had the contract for the construction work. Construction material available included one Diesel shovel (Loeffelbagger), two steam driven grab cranes (Greifbagger), five Diesel locomotives, and 70 narrow-gauge field railway dumpcars. Work was being done in three shifts, from 6 a.m. to 2 p.m., from 2 to 10 p.m., and from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. Electric lights illuminated the construction sites at night. According to repeated observation there were about 60 to 65 laborers in each shift. Most of the work was being done in the area northwest and northeast of the former landing field. The ground was being graded there.

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CLASSIFICATION                     

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1. On 2 June, most of the laborers were excavating at the field. A few workers stripped the debris of the former hangars on the southern edge of the field. It was observed that six temporary wooden buildings and two brick buildings on the southern edge of the field were being used. About 500 meters north-east of these buildings, there were two new temporary buildings by a thick cable. \*

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- \*  Comment. Reconditioning work at the field was started in the fall of 1950 with a proportionally small number of laborers. For sketch of airfield boundaries, see Annex. According to this sketch, the landing field is being enlarged to the east and west. So far, no indications of the intended construction of a hard surface runway have been observed.

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1 Annex: ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~